DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 118 189 JC 760 115

AUTHOR	Lucas, John A.
TITLE	Evaluation of Weekend and Early Morning Classes. Research Report Series, Vol. 7, No. 7.
INSTITUTION	William Rainey Harper Coll., Palatine, Ill.
PUB DATE	3 Dec 75
NOTE	21p.
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage
DESCRIPTORS	Courses; Grades (Scholastic); Junior Colleges; *Scheduling; *Student Attitudes; *Weekend Programs; Withdrawal
IDENTIFIERS	*Early Morning Classes; William Rainey Harper College

ABSTRACT

In order to measure the effect of early morning and weekend scheduling at William Rainey Harper College, six different survey forms were developed and sent to the following groups of students: students taking six selected courses at 7 a.m., students taking the courses during regular times of the week, and students taking the courses on the weekend. Students finishing the courses were sent different forms than students withdrawing. In all, 797 students were polled, and 626 responded, a 78.5 percent response rate. Weekend students tended to have higher withdrawal rates than weekday or night students. However, they rated the courses as more beneficial than the weekday or night students, and they earned higher grades. Many would have preferred taking the courses at other times, and most felt that additional campus services should be provided on the weekend. Students taking 7 a.m. classes were more apt to withdraw than students in any other group. However, they withdrew because of personal problems, not because of the inconvenience of the time. Early morning students rated their ability to concentrate, the quality of other students, and the level of instructional support lower than the students in other groups, and tended to earn lower grades. The detailed results are shown in tables, and the survey instruments are appended. (NHM)

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ED118189

William Rainey Harper College

EVALUATION OF WEEKEND AND EARLY MORNING CLASSES

Research Report Series Volume VII, No. 7

December 3, 1975

Office of Planning and Research

John A. Lucas, Director

JC 760 115

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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There was concern in the divisions that courses offered at 7:00 AM or classes offered on the weekend were experiencing more withdrawals or more problems than the same classes conducted during regular hours. Since Harper seems to be moving toward offering more weekend classes, there was a desire to evaluate courses which were offered at these various times.

Division Chairmen selected the following courses for evaluation: Business 101 and 104, Psychology 101 and 217, Math 103 and 124, English 101 and Data Processing 101. All these courses were taught in the Fall of 1974 during regular hours during the week and either at 7:00 AM in the morning or on the weekend or both. In all, 24 different sections were identified which included 797 students.

Six different survey forms, shown in the appendix, were developed with the Division Chairmen. The six forms were sent to the following groups of students: students taking the courses during regular times during the week, students taking the courses at 7:00 AM and students taking courses on the weekend. In each case students finishing the course were sent different forms than students withdrawing from the course. The survey forms were mailed out and those not responding were mailed a postcard reminder three weeks later. After another three weeks, if they still hadn't responded, information was gathered from the student over the telephone. The response rates for the survey are shown in Table I.

Withdrawals for the study were those receiving a "W".

In addition to the information gathered on the surveys, grade information was also gathered. The results of the survey can be summarized as follows:

1. Students taking weekend courses withdrew at the same rate as students taking courses at regular weekday or weeknight times. However, many more students on the weekend received "N's". If the withdrawals and "N's" were combined it would show 30 percent of the weekend students were in this category while only 19 percent of the students taking the courses during regular hours were in this category. Weekend students tended to withdraw more because of personal problems and less because of academic problems or course attributes. Unfortunately, students who received "N's" were not asked why they walked away from the course.

2. Students finishing weekend classes rated these courses as having much more benefit than other students rating their courses. These students also rated their ability to concentrate and the quality of students and faculty in weekend courses about the same as regular hour courses. Only instructional services were rated lower on the weekend.

3. Considering only those students receiving grades, weekend students received much higher grades than other students.

4. Almost half of the weekend students felt counseling was definitely needed on the weekends while a third felt food service was definitely needed then. Only about a fourth felt student activities were definitely needed then and only a fifth felt intramural sports were definitely needed on the weekend. Saturday morning and Friday evenings were by far the most popular time preferences for future weekend classes.

5. More weekend students than other students indicated they really preferred taking these courses at another time but couldn't because the sections were closed. However, over half of the weekend students indicated they would probably take weekend courses again.

   In summary, weekend students tend to walk away more from classes receiving an "N" but rated the courses as more beneficial and performed better gradewise. More preferred taking the course at another time and more felt additional services should be provided on the weekend.

6. Students taking 7:00 AM courses were more apt to withdraw than other students. They were more apt to withdraw because of personal problems and less likely to withdraw because of inconvenient time.

7. These early morning students rated the ability to concentrate, the quality of students and level of instructional support lower at 7:00 AM than during regular hours.

8. Students taking 7:00 AM courses performed much poorer gradewise than students taking courses during regular hours.

9. Only a fourth of these students indicated they would probably ever take a 7:00 AM course again.

In summary, students taking 7:00 AM classes, withdrew more often, performed at a lower level and rated their experience at a lower level.

The detailed results are shown in the following table.

TABLE I

Response Rate for Questionnaires

	Number of Responses	Number of No Responses	Number In Sample	Response Rate
Regular Weekday and Weeknight Sections				
Those finishing courses	291	76	367	79.3%
Those withdrawing	34	17	51	66.7%
Sub-total	325	93	418	77.8%
Early Morning-7 AM Sections				
Those finishing course	87	10	97	89.7%
Those withdrawing	17	7	24	70.8%
Sub-total	104	17	121	86.0%
Weekend Sections				
Those finishing course	181	43	224	80.8%
Those withdrawing	16	18	34	47.1%
Sub-total	197	61	258	76.4%
Totals				
Those finishing course	559	129	688	81.3%
Those withdrawing	67	42	109	61.5%
Grand total	626	171	797	78.5%

TABLE II

Rates of Withdrawal from Courses Taught at Different Times

	Regular Weekday or Weeknight Sections		Early Morning 7 AM Sections		Weekend Sections	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Withdrew from course	51	12.2	24	19.8	34	13.2
Finished course	367	87.8	97	80.2	224	86.8
Total	418	100.0	121	100.0	258	100.0
"N" grades given	29	6.9	6	5.0	44	17.1
Combination "N" grade and withdrawal	80	19.1	30	24.8	78	30.2

TABLE III

Analysis of Why Students Withdrew From Courses Offered at Different Times

Reason for Withdrawing From Course	Regular Weekday Weeknight Sections		Early Morning 7 AM Sections		Weekend Sections	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Personal or family problems	4	11.8	3½	25.0	7	46.7
Having academic problems with course	8½	25.0	4	28.6	0	0
Meeting time was inconvenient	8	23.5	0	0	3	20.0
Didn't like instructor	3½	10.3	2½	17.9	0	0
Course didn't fit personal objectives	3	8.8	0	0	0	0
Illness	1	2.9	0	0	2	13.3
Job responsibilities	0	0	2	14.3	0	0
Taking courses at other college	0	0	0	0	1	6.7
Financial problem	0	0	1	7.1	0	0
Other not specified	6	17.7	1	7.1	2	13.3
Total	34	100.0	14	100.0	15	100.0

TABLE IV

Rating of How Beneficial Courses Were Which Were Offered at Different Times
Only Those Students Finishing the Course Evaluated It

Rating	Regular Weekday Weeknight Sections		Early Morning 7 AM Sections		Weekend Sections	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
It was extremely beneficial to me. It was one of the best courses I have ever taken. Rating = 3	65	22.3	11	14.5	48	28.1
It was beneficial to me, meeting almost all of my expectations of the course. Rating = 2	120	41.3	36	47.4	75½	44.1
It was somewhat beneficial to me, meeting some of my expectations of the course. Rating = 1	65½	22.5	22	28.9	37½	21.9
It was of little benefit to me. It failed to meet the expectations I held for the course. Rating = 0	40½	13.9	7	9.2	10	5.9
Total	291	100.0	76	100.0	171	100.0
Average Rating	1.72		1.67		1.94	

TABLE V

Rating of Weekend and 7:00 AM Sections

	7 AM Classes				Weekend Classes											
	Those Earning Credit		Those With-drawing		Those Earning Credit		Those With-Drawing		All Evening Credit		All With-drawing		All 7 AM Classes		All Weekend Classes		Grand Total	
	N	R*	N	R*	N	R*	N	R*	N	R*	N	R*	N	R*	N	R*	N	R*
Ability to concentrate on course	81	.72	10	.70	147	.98	12	.83	228	.89	22	.77	91	.71	159	.97	250	.88
Quality of the instructor	79	.92	10	.80	143	1.10	12	1.00	222	1.04	22	.91	89	.91	155	1.10	244	1.03
Quality of the student body	78	.69	9	.78	148	1.04	11	.91	226	.92	20	.85	87	.70	159	1.03	246	.91
Level of support services	77	.68	8	1.00	141	.84	11	.73	218	.78	19	.84	85	.71	152	.84	237	.79

*Rating 2 = better during this time period than during regular hours
1 = same as regular hours
0 = better during regular hours than during these hours

Willingness to Take Courses at This Time Again

	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P
Would never take courses at this time again	20	26.0	4	30.8	24	13.9	3	21.4	44	17.6	7	25.9	24	26.7	27	14.4	51	18.4
Might take a course at this time again	39	50.6	5	38.4	54	31.2	6	42.9	93	37.2	11	40.8	44	48.9	60	32.1	104	37.6
Will probably take a course at this time again	18	23.4	4	30.8	62	35.8	3	21.4	80	32.0	7	25.9	22	24.4	65	34.8	87	31.4
Would be willing to take multiple courses at this time again	-		-		33		2	14.3	33	13.2	2	7.4	-		35	18.7	35	12.6
Total	77	100%	13	100%	173	100%	14	100%	250	100%	27	100%	90	100%	187	100%	277	100%

TABLE VI

Analysis of Why Students Took These Courses During These Particular Times

	Regular Weekday or Weeknight Sections				Early Morning 7:00 AM Sections				Weekend Sections				TOTALS			
	Received Credit		Withdrew		Received Credit		Withdrew		Received Credit		Withdrew		Received Credit		Withdrew	
	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P
Because of my schedule it was the only time I could have taken the course	116½	40.0	20	58.8	37	42.5	5	29.4	59½	32.9	8	50.0	213	38.1	33	49.2
I would have preferred to take the course at another time but those sections were closed	15	5.2	4	11.8	9	10.3	1	5.9	33½	18.5	2	12.5	57½	10.3	7	10.5
I could have taken the course another time but this time was the most convenient for me	137	47.1	8	23.5	35	40.2	11	64.7	77	42.5	4	25.0	249	44.5	23	34.3
Faculty member recommendation	5	1.7											5	.9		
Made a mistake									1	.6	1	6.3	1	.2	1	1.5
Can concentrate better at this time									1	.5			1	.2		
Doesn't matter when I take it					1	1.2							1	.2		
Other not specified	17½	6.0	2	5.9	5	5.8	—	—	9	5.0	1	6.2	31½	5.6	3	4.5
TOTAL	291	100.0%	34	100.0%	87	100.0%	17	100.0%	181	100.0%	16	100.0%	559	[illegible]	67	100.0%

TABLE VI (continued)

Analysis of Why Students Took These Courses During These Particular Times

	All Regular Weekday and Weeknight Sections		Early Morning 7 AM Sections		Weekend Sections		Grand Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Because of my schedule it was the only time I could have taken the course.	136½	42.0	42	40.4	67½	34.3	246	39.3
I would have preferred to take the course at another time but those sections were closed.	19	5.9	10	9.6	35½	18.0	64½	10.3
I could have taken the course another time but this time was the most convenient for me.	145	44.6	46	44.2	81	41.1	272	43.4
Faculty member recommendation	5	1.5					5	.8
Made a mistake					2	1.0	2	.3
Can concentrate better at this time					1	.5	1	.2
Doesn't matter when I take it			1	1.0			1	.2
Other not specified	19½	6.0	5	4.8	10	5.1	34½	5.5
TOTAL	325	100.0	104	100.0	197	100.0	626	100.0

TABLE VII

Grade Analysis of Sections Offered at Different Times

Grades	Regular Weekday or Weeknight Sections		Early Morning or 7 AM Sections		Weekend Sections	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
A	96	26.6	13	13.7	64	28.0
B	91	25.2	28	29.5	69	30.1
C	88	24.4	31	32.6	36	15.7
D	16	4.4	12	12.6	3	1.3
F	24	6.7	3	3.2	0	0
N	29	8.0	6	6.3	44	19.2
X	17	4.7	2	2.1	11	4.8
H	0	0	0	0	2	.9
Total	361	100.0	95	100.0	229	100.0
Average GPA based on (A, B, C, D, & F only)	2.70		2.41		3.13	

TABLE VIII

Needs of Weekend Students

Services Needed	Those Receiving Credit		Those Withdrawing		All Weekend Students	
Counseling	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Definitely needed	71	46.1	5	41.7	76	45.8
Not sure	49	31.8	6	50.0	55	33.1
Not worth money	34	22.1	1	8.3	35	21.1
Total	154	100.0	12	100.0	166	100.0
Student Activities						
Definitely needed	39	26.2	6	46.1	45	27.8
Not sure	71	47.6	6	46.2	77	47.5
Not worth money	39	26.2	1	7.7	40	24.7
Total	149	100.0	13	100.0	162	100.0
Intramural Sports						
Definitely needed	28	18.9	6	54.5	34	21.4
Not sure	75	50.7	4	36.4	79	49.7
Not worth money	45	30.4	1	9.1	46	28.9
Total	148	100.0	11	100.0	159	100.0
Food Service						
Definitely needed	50	32.7	5	41.7	55	33.3
Not sure	59	38.5	5	41.6	64	38.8
Not worth money	44	28.8	2	16.7	46	27.9
Total	153	100.0	12	100.0	165	100.0
Times Would prefer for taking future weekend courses						
Friday evening	72	39.8	8	50.0	80	40.6
Saturday morning	106	58.6	6	37.5	112	56.9
Saturday afternoon	45	24.9	4	25.0	49	24.9
Saturday evening	11	6.1	2	12.5	13	6.6
Sunday morning	17	9.4	0	0	17	8.6
Sunday afternoon	17	9.4	1	6.3	18	9.1
Sunday evening	8	4.4	1	6.3	9	4.6
Total	181		16		197	

TABLE IX

Previous Experience at Harper

	Regular Weekday & Weeknight Withdrawals		Early Morning 7 AM Sections				Weekend Sections				TOTAL	
			Rec'd Credit		Withdrew		Rec'd Credit		Withdrew			
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
First course taken	4	11.8	6	6.9	7	41.2	32	17.7	0	0	49	14.6
Taken other courses on weekends	6	17.7	-	-	-	-	52	28.7	4	25.0	62	18.5
Taken other courses at 7 AM	-	-	20	23.0	1	5.9	-	-	-	-	21	6.3
Taken other courses on weekdays	21	61.8	27	31.0	4	23.5	110	60.8	14	87.5	176	52.5
Taken other courses on weeknights	21	61.8	72	82.8	9	52.9	48	26.5	6	37.5	156	46.6
Total respondents to item	34		87		17		181		16		335	

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APPENDIX

William Rainey Harper College
Algonquin and Roselle Roads
Palatine, Illincis 60067
312-397-3000

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH
July 31, 1975

Dear Student:

Our records show you withdrew from _____
offered during the 1974 Fall semester _____.
In order to adequately plan for the future, we need the feedback as to why students withdrew from courses at Harper.

We would appreciate it very much if you would fill out the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the stamped, pre-addressed return envelope. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

John A. Lucas

John A. Lucas
Director

Enclosures

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THOSE RECEIVING CREDIT
FROM A WEEKEND COURSE

1. Why did you take this course at the time you did on Friday evening or Saturday? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. Because of my schedule it was the only time I could have taken the course.
_____ B. I would have preferred to take the course at another time but those sections were closed.
_____ C. I could have taken the course another time but this time was the most convenient for me.
_____ D. Other (specify) _____
_____

2. Have you taken other courses at Harper? Check (✓) those appropriate.

_____ A. This is the first course I have taken at Harper.
_____ B. I have taken other courses on Friday night or Saturday at Harper.
_____ C. I have taken other courses on weeknights at Harper.
_____ D. I have taken other courses on weekdays at Harper.

3. If you have taken other courses at Harper during regular weekdays or weeknights, please compare this course with those. Make one check (✓) for each row.

	Better on weekends Friday night or Saturday	No difference between the weekdays or nights and the weekends	Better during the regular weekdays or weeknights
Ability to concentrate on course	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
Quality of the instructor	_____	_____	_____
Quality of the student body	_____	_____	_____
Level of support facilities such as computer useage, library materials and media (movies, TV, slides, audio tapes)	_____	_____	_____

4. Should student services, such as counseling, activities, food service, etc., be availabe on the weekends? Check (✓) each row.

	Definitely needed on weekends	No opinion not sure	Not worth the money to offer on weekends
Counseling	_____	_____	_____
Student Activities	_____	_____	_____
Intramural sports	_____	_____	_____
Food service	_____	_____	_____

5. Woul. you be willing to take courses on the weekend again? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. I would never take a weekend course again.
_____ B. I might take a weekend course again.
_____ C. I will probably take one course at a time on a weekend.
_____ D. I would be willing to take more than one course on a weekend.

6. If you would be willing to take further courses on weekends, check (✓) those times you would most likely enroll.

_____ A. Friday evening
_____ B. Saturday morning
_____ C. Saturday afternoon
_____ D. Saturday evening
_____ E. Sunday morning
_____ F. Sunday afternoon
_____ G. Sunday evening

7. How would you rate how beneficial this course was to you? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. It was extremely beneficial to me. It was one of the best courses I have ever taken.
_____ B. It was beneficial to me, meeting almost all of my expectation of the course.
_____ C. It was somewhat beneficial to me, meeting some of my expectations of the course.
_____ D. It was of little benefit to me. It failed to meet the expectations I held for the course.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THOSE RECEIVING CREDIT
FROM A WEEKDAY OR WEEKNIGHT COURSE

1. Why did you take this course at the time you did? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. Because of my schedule it was the only time I could have taken the course.

_____ B. I would have preferred to take the course at another time but those sections were closed.

_____ C. I could have taken the course another time but this time was the most convenient for me.

_____ D. Other (specify) _____
_____

2. How would you rate how beneficial this course was to you? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. It was extremely benficial to me. It was one of the best courses I have ever taken.

_____ B. It was beneficial to me, meeting almost all of my expectations of the course.

_____ C. It was somewhat beneficial to me, meeting some of my expectations of the course.

_____ D. It was of little benefit to me. It failed to meet the expectations I held for the course.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THOSE WITHDRAWING
FROM A WEEKDAY OR WEEKNIGHT COURSE

1. Why did you take this course at the time you did? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. Because of my schedule it was the only time I could have taken the course.
_____ B. I would have preferred to take the course at another time but those sections were closed.
_____ C. I could have taken the course another time but this time was the most convenient for me.
_____ D. Other (specify) _____
_____

2. Why did you withdraw from this course? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. Personal or family problems or responsibilities
_____ B. Illness
_____ C. The course was not what I expected or didn't fit in with my educational objectives.
_____ D. I didn't like the instructor.
_____ E. The time at which the course met proved to be very inconvenient for me.
_____ F. I was having academic problems with the course. It was too difficult or I didn't have the right background.
_____ G. Other (specify) _____
_____

3. Have you taken other courses at Harper? Check (✓) those appropriate.

_____ A. This is the first course I have taken at Harper.
_____ B. I have taken other courses on Friday night or Saturday at Harper.
_____ C. I have taken other courses on weeknights at Harper.
_____ D. I have taken other courses on weekdays at Harper.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THOSE WITHDRAWING
FROM WEEKEND COURSES

1. Why did you take this course at the time you did on Friday evening or Saturday? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. Because of my schedule it was the only time I could have taken the course.
_____ B. I would have preferred to take the course at another time but those sections were closed.
_____ C. I could have taken the course another time but this time was the most convenient for me.
_____ D. Other (specify) _____
_____

2. Why did you withdraw from this course? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. Personal or family problems or responsibilities
_____ B. Illness
_____ C. The course was not what I expected or didn't fit in with my educational objectives.
_____ D. I didn't like the instructor.
_____ E. The time at which the course met proved to be very inconvenient for me.
_____ F. I was having academic problems with the course. It was too difficult or I didn't have the right background.
_____ G. Other (specify) _____
_____

3. Have you taken other courses at Harper? Check (✓) those appropriate.

_____ A. This is the first course I have taken at Harper.
_____ B. I have taken other courses on Friday night or Saturday at Harper.
_____ C. I have taken other courses on weeknights at Harper.
_____ D. I have taken other courses on weekdays at Harper.

4. If you have taken other courses at Harper during regular weekdays or weeknights, please compare this course with those. Make one check (✓) for each row.

	Better on weekends Friday night or Saturday	No difference between the weekdays or nights and the weekends	Better during the regular weekdays or weeknights
Ability to concentrate on course	_____	_____	_____
Quality of the instructor	_____	_____	_____
Quality of the student body	_____	_____	_____
Level of support facilities such as computer useage, library materials and media (movies, TV, slides audio tapes)	_____	_____	_____

5. Should student services, such as counseling, activities, food service, etc., be avilable on the weekends? Check (✓) each row.

	Definitely needed on weekends	No opinion not sure	Not worth the money to offer on weekends
Counseling	_____	_____	_____
Student activities	_____	_____	_____
Intramural sports	_____	_____	_____
Food service	_____	_____	_____

6. Would you be willing to take courses on the weekend again? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. I would never take a weekend course again.
_____ B. I might take a weekend course again.
_____ C. I will probably take one course at a time on a weekend.
_____ D. I would be willing to take more than one course on a weekend.

7. If you would be willing to take further courses on weekends, check (✓) those times you would most likely enroll.

_____ A. Friday evening
_____ B. Saturday morning
_____ C. Saturday afternoon
_____ D. Satuday evening
_____ E. Sunday morning
_____ F. Sunday afternoon
_____ G. Sunday evening

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THOSE RECEIVING CREDIT
FROM A 7:00 AM COURSE

1. Why did you take this course at the time you did at 7:00 AM? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. Because of my schedule it was the only time I could have taken the course.
_____ B. I would have preferred to take the course at another time but those sections were closed.
_____ C. I could have taken the course another time but this time was the most convenient for me.
_____ D. Other (specify) _____
_____

2. Have you taken other courses at Harper? Check (✓) those appropriate.

_____ A. This is the first course I have taken at Harper.
_____ B. I have taken other courses at 7 AM.
_____ C. I have taken other courses on weeknights at Harper.
_____ D. I have taken other courses on weekdays at Harper.

3. If you have taken other courses at Harper during regular weekdays or weeknights, please compare this course with those.

	Better at 7 AM	No difference between 7 AM and regular weekday hours	Better during the regular weekday hours than at 7 AM
Ability to concentrate on courses	_____	_____	_____
Quality of the instructor	_____	_____	_____
Quality of the student body	_____	_____	_____
Level of support fccilities such as computer useage, library materials and media (movies, TV, slides audio tapes)	_____	_____	_____

4. Would you be willing to take courses at 7 AM again? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. I would never take a 7 AM course again.
_____ B. I might take a 7 AM course again.
_____ C. I will probably take a course at 7 AM again.

5. How would you rate how beneficial this course was to you? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. It was extremely benficial to me. It was one of the best courses I have ever taken.
_____ B. It was beneficial to me, meeting almost all of my expectations of the course.
_____ C. It was somewhat beneficial to me, meeting some of my expectations of the course.
_____ D. It was of little benefit to me. It failed to meet the expectations I held for the course.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

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